

Minimum Wage, Except for Women, Opposed by Expert

SIR HUGH BELL HAS STUDIED THE MINIMUM WAGE AND EIGHT HOUR LAWS FROM EVERY ANGLE



AN EMPLOYER LOOKS ONLY TO THE DAY'S OUTPUT AND THE DAY'S PROFITS.

British Colliery Owner, Student of Labor Laws, Gives Experience With English Legislation—Declares "Marginally Lazy" Must Be Forced to Work—Eight-Hour Law Gives Increased Efficiency, He Asserts.

England has been experimenting with minimum wage laws and with the eight-hour day law.

Sir Hugh Bell, one of Great Britain's leading captains of industry, millionaire iron magnate and colliery owner, has made a close study of the workings of both enactments.

"I keep my business and my philanthropy in separate pockets," declares Sir Hugh. But he discussed today, for readers of The Times, the effects of these laws from both standpoints.

By J. R. HILDEBRAND.

"I favor an eight-hour day on the selfish business ground of increased efficiency. But I believe legislative regulation of working hours is needed only in behalf of women and girls."

"A minimum wage for these classes also may be justifiable, but a general minimum wage always will defeat its own ends, and hamper employer and employee alike."

These are premises on which Sir Hugh Bell today outlined in detail the actual effects of the eight-hour day and the minimum wage statutes in England.

"The industrial king is a keen, alert, agile, vigorous man, despite his seventy years. He bears a striking resemblance to former Ambassador Bryce. Despite his vast interests he has found time to give close attention to new industrial measures. He has studied them, not only in relation to his own business, but from a social and economic standpoint."

Sir Hugh is delightfully and emphatically frank. He wants it understood he keeps his "business and philanthropies in different pockets."

"As an employer I am human, meaning I am a brute, and I would be a slave driver if I were unchecked. An employer looks only to the day's output, and the day's profits. The larger social consequences of industry are left for the state."

Sir Hugh explained that an economic condition exists in the relation of women and girls to the industries which does not exist in the case of men.

"When you start to write a proposition such as the minimum wage into the law books, I contend the burden of proof rests upon the advocate of such legislation," he said. "The question should not be whether such a law might not be a hindrance, but whether it is necessary. Legal interference in purely social and industrial problems should only occur when its necessity is proven."

"Such a necessity may exist, I admit, in reference to young women. Men can protect themselves. But women need protection against their own sex."

"Many young women are willing to work for a pittance to add to the margin of the family income. Others wish to earn a few extra dollars until Jack or Bill comes along and marries them. But you have a class of women, fast increasing, who are self-supporting. These women need protection against their sisters who are willing to work for a pittance."

Maximum Working Hours.

"In that fact lies a justification of the minimum wage for women which does not exist in the case of men. They may organize, they may strike, and they do. For their better, better, and that of their families, depends upon their wage."

Solely as an employer, Sir Hugh believes in maximum working hours. "It has been proven that, in the so-called 'sweated industries,' a person can work for only a certain time effectively. This time, it is generally agreed, is eight hours. Any marked excess of that general average, in the long run, will decrease efficiency."

"But when you fix a hard and fast standard by law, you embarrass many of the continuous industries. Women and girls should be protected, for the same reason they were protected in the question



Sir Hugh Bell
OTHERS WISH TO EARN A FEW EXTRA DOLLARS UNTIL JACK OR BILL COMES ALONG AND MARRIES THEM.



of the health of their offspring, for the state wants them to grow up into healthy, normal men and women.

"For men, it might be necessary to work ten hours a day for three days and six hours a day for three more days, making up your forty-eight-hour week. That should be allowed. It is for the good of the men themselves."

In Continuous Industries.

"Take my own pig iron industry. That is a continuous industry. Until recently we worked men twelve hours a day. Now we work three

shifts. But we have to keep going Sunday as well. Our plan has been, in order to relieve any group of men from the less agreeable shifts, say from 10 p. m. to 8 a. m., to work one shift, every three weeks, for sixteen hours, thus giving the third shift an entire day's labor."

A general eight-hour law also would work hardship to seamen, and to dozens of other men employed in the continuous industries."

A general minimum wage is opposed by the British industrial leader on the ground that it leaves no leeway for the employer to meet business depressions without layoffs. In the long run, either the employer would suffer, or the employee would suffer by immediate layoffs, and both alternatives mean an ultimate loss to the employee.

Factor of Human Nature.

But there is an even bigger factor than this plain case of figures against a general minimum wage, Sir Hugh believes. And by his explanations of that factor, illustrated by apt anecdotes, one realized where lay this man's reputed power for dealing with men.

"Human nature is the biggest single argument against a minimum wage," he said. "Especially in a piece-work shop, an employer capable of doing without

injury to himself, 5 per cent more work than the figure set by the proposed minimum wage. Under conditions as the law now stands, he would introduce a minimum wage and he finds he can fall 10 per cent below par and still get the minimum wage. Will he be apt to work for that extra 5 per cent, or will he find greater pleasure in falling below the mark and making his employer give him that added 10 per cent?"

This man belongs to what Sir Hugh terms the "marginally lazy class." His explanation of this class likewise sheds light on the actual relation of psychology to big business.

"The Marginally Lazy."

"Minimum wage or not, we do not have to worry about the ambitious man. He will get along. But the large percentage of workmen belong to this marginally lazy class. It is to the interest of society to keep such a man at work."

"A bachelor came to me and said, 'I want a job three days a week. I can earn, in those three days, all I need. I contend I am a philanthropist because I am making room for another man to get a job.'"

"I told that man, 'You are doing nothing of the kind. You are keeping

another man out of a job. If you earned twice as much you would spend, or save, twice as much. And that would mean the equivalent of half another fellow's job in providing what you bought, or in caring for your savings.'"

"So, it is in society's interest that the lazy man be kept at work at his full capacity. Any scheme which would let him rest on his oars robs society of that much benefit."

Has Increased Efficiency.

England had two provisions for the minimum wage and a maximum working day. One is called the trades boards law. This board has jurisdiction over the "sweated" industries, in which women are employed for the most part. It has the power to investigate wage conditions and to order a minimum scale. Such regulation already has taken place, and, in the opinion of Sir Hugh, the results have been to increase efficiency.

The other minimum wage provision was the outgrowth of the famous coal mine strikes of 1912, in which Sir Hugh was a principal figure because of his interest in the mines of Durham county, and the iron stone industries of Yorkshire, also affected by this law.

"After long conferences between men and owners, Premier Asquith intervened, made an investigation, and

found that in certain cases the claims of men that they did more work than they were paid for was true, in his opinion."

A bill was rushed through parliament creating joint district boards, in the fourteen coal sections, and umpires also were provided for appeals.

"Rates in the Durham mines were submitted to an umpire, Sir Robert Romer, who approved the scale we already paid as a minimum wage. As a result the men were discontented, having expected a much higher rate."

"That our rate should have been approved was not surprising, since previously employees treated frequently with owners and the wages paid was the result of such conferences, extending over forty years. Now the workmen must abide by the flat rate laid down by the umpire, and satisfaction with employer is curtailed."

Sir Hugh Bell will remain in Washington several weeks as a guest at the British embassy.

Arrested as Fugitive.

Antonio Berni, an Italian, eighteen years old, of 66 Third street northwest, was arrested last night by Detectives O'Brien and Mullins as a fugitive from justice. Berni, according to the police, is wanted in Lancaster, Pa.

In connection with an alleged larceny of money and jewelry to the extent of \$25, he was formerly employed in a factory in Lancaster.

Make the Liver Do its Duty

Nine times in ten when the liver is right the stomach and bowels are right.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS

gently but firmly compel a lazy liver to do its duty.

Cure Constipation, Indigestion, Headaches, and Distress after Eating.

Small Pill, Small Dose, Small Price

Genuine must bear Signature

W. D. Wood

Small Pill, Small Dose, Small Price

Genuine must bear Signature

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Small Pill, Small Dose, Small Price

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W. D. Wood

An Extra Special

Price Reduction to More Thoroughly Introduce

Log Cabin Syrup

Pint can. Special... 21c

Quart can. Special... 35c

Try a pint. You will prefer it above all other high-grade goods.

LOW PRICE

SANITARY
GROCERY CO.

32 STORES
ONE NEAR YOUR HOME

COMPARE

Your Last Grocery Bill With These Low-Priced Items

Then you will realize why we are doing the grocery business of Washington. Dollars go further here. They buy more groceries and better groceries than the same amount of money can secure elsewhere. Here's proof. More proof in every SANITARY Store.

Argo or Red Boy Salmon

The Real Red Alaska 2 Cans for 25c

Ivory Soap 3 for 11c

Five-cent Size.. 3 for 11c

Sanitary Starch 3 for 10c

Five-cent Size.. 3 for 10c

Into Another New Store

Friday morning this week will find us located in the handsome new storeroom at

11th and H Streets Northeast

Always on the lookout to improve conditions, we will remove from 1115 H to the corner in the same square.

The BETTER STOREROOM means BETTER SERVICE for our patrons.

Special price attractions to mark the opening at the new location.

Fiddle and Bow Flour

The Self-Rising Biscuit Flour 16 1/2 c

Five-Pound Bags, Special.. 16 1/2 c

Coffee Special

One Pound Granulated Sugar Free with each pound of our

No. 30 Coffee—per pound... 30c

Sanitary Butter, lb.	32c
Sanitary Oleomargarine	25c
Oranges, small, doz.	12 1/2c
Oranges, med., doz.	15c
Oranges, large, doz.	20c & 25c
Western Apples, 1/4 pk.	20c
Western Apples, per box	\$2.75
Yellow Onions, 1/4 pk.	15c
Cooking Apples, 1/4 pk.	18c
Sweet Potatoes, 1/4 pk.	10c
Michigan White Potatoes, pk.	25c
Grapefruit, small	5c
Grapefruit, large, each	10c
Grapefruit, large, 3 for	25c
Our Stores are all supplied with New Cabbage at lowest prices.	

Our Famous Teas

Are sold at ONE-HALF prices usually asked for similar grades. Sold under an absolute guarantee to please you.

Save ONE-HALF on your tea bill by buying here.

Mosque Brand:

1/4-lb. canister... 10c

1/2-lb. canister... 18c

Afternoon Brand:

1/4-lb. canister... 13c

1/2-lb. canister... 23c

Regular 10c cans of Salmon

Auk and Express Brands

LAUNDRY SPECIALS

Lump Starch, 3 lbs. 10c

Argo Starch, pkg. 4c

Sanitary, 3 pkgs. for 10c

Elastic Starch... 5c and 10c

Block Bluing, each 4c

La France Tablets... 4c

Ammonia, small bottle... 5c

Ammonia, large bottle... 9c

20-Mule Borax, lb. 12c

20-Mule Borax Soap Chips, 10c

Star Soap, 6 cakes... 25c

Asparagus Tips, can 20c

Smoked Bloaters... 2 for 5c

Fels Soap... 2 for 9c

P. & G. Oleine Soap, 2 for 9c

White Naptha... 2 for 9c

Gold Dust... 2 for 9c

Gold Dust, No. 4 size... 21c

Star Naptha Powder, 2 for 9c

Star Naptha Powder, No. 4 size... 19c

Sanitary Washing Powder, No. 4 size... 10c

Soapine... 2 for 9c

Strictly Fresh EGGS - - 25c

SPECIAL CANNED GOODS OFFERINGS

CANNED FISH, ETC.

Fish Roe, per can... 12c

B. & M. Fish Flakes... 9c

B. & M. Fish Flakes... 14c

Star Lobster, 1/4 size... 18c

Star Lobster, 1/2 size... 33c

Tuna Fish, No. 1/2 size... 14c

Tuna Fish, No. 1 size... 20c

Marshall's Kipped Herring Large can... 15c

Small can... 10c

Herrings in Tomato Sauce Marshall's large can... 15c

Half Moon, small can... 10c

SALMON—Auk, No. 1/2... 5c

Auk, No. 1... 8c

Chic, No. 1/2... 7 1/2c

Chic, No. 1... 12 1/2c

Bow Knot (Sockeye) No. 1/2... 12 1/2c

Bow Knot (Sockeye) No. 1... 20c

SARDINES—Std., Oil or Mustard... 4c

Sanitary, Oil or Mustard... 5c

Nansen (smoked)... 10c

Imported (in olive oil)... 8c

Marie Elizabeth, 1/4 size... 10c

ASPARAGUS—

Del Monte Tips... 20c

Banquet, tall can... 20c

San Leando, can... 12 1/2c

BEETS—

Red Clover (small sweet)... 12 1/2c

Superior... 10c

High Grade (cut)... 10c

STRING BEANS—

Schriver's (cut) stringless... 3 for 25c

Schriver's Selected... 15c

Schriver's A1 (very small)... 17 1/2c

BAKED BEANS—

No. 1, Wagner's... 5c

No. 2, Wagner's... 9c

No. 3, Wagner's... 12c

No. 1, Van Camp's... 7 1/2c

No. 2, Van Camp's... 12 1/2c

No. 3, Van Camp's... 15c

No. 2, Campbell's... 3 for 25c

No. 3, Bunker Hill... 8c

RED KIDNEY BEANS—

No. 2, High Grade... 7 1/2c

LIMA BEANS—

No. 1, Red Clover... 10c

No. 2, Schriver's... 10c

No. 2 Brownie (soaked)... 8c

CORN—

No. 1, Schriver's... 5c

No. 2, Schriver's Corn, 7c

No. 2, Country Gentleman, 10c

No. 2, Shoe Peg... 10c

No. 2, Paris Brand... 12 1/2c

Mixed Vegetables for Soups—

Spring Garden Vegetables, 9c

Corn and Tomatoes... 9c

Famous Jap Rose Toilet Soap

A daintily perfumed toilet soap. Standard 10c value the world over.

Special Introductory Offer at Our Store,

Only 7 1/2c per cake

MUSHROOMS—

1st Choice (very best)... 25c

Hotel (sticks & pieces)... 19c

PIMENTOS—

(Spanish Sweet Peppers)

1/4 Size... 10c

1/2 Size... 18c

PEAS—

No. 1 Red Clover, very small... 12c

No. 2 Red Clover, very small... 20c

No. 2 Red Clover, Early Summer Sweet... 15c

Schriver's A1... 17 1/2c

Schriver's Extra Sifted... 15c

Schriver's Early Sweet... 12 1/2c

Schriver's Silver Label... 10c

Hermit (soaked)... 7c

SPAGHETTI—

Van Camp's, No. 1... 7 1/2c

Van Camp's, No. 2... 12 1/2c